

CYNWAL, WILLIAM (died 1587 or 1588), poet

Name: William Cynwal
Date of death: 1587
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet
Area of activity: Poetry
Author: Ray Looker

of Ysbyty Ifan, Denbighshire, disciple of [Gruffudd Hiraethog](#), and graduate of the second Caerwys eisteddfod (1568). A large number of his poems, written chiefly in strict metre, remain, and many of them are in holograph (e.g. Mostyn MS. 111). They consist of eulogies, elegies, and begging-poems to various members of the North Walian gentry, and poems of religion, love, satire, and controversy - the best-known of his bardic controversies is the long one between [Edmwnd Prys](#) and himself. He also produced works of heraldry (e.g. Bangor MS. 5943), a chronicle (Pen. MS. 212), a grammar (Cardiff MS. 38), and part of a dictionary, extant in the hand of [Edward Williams](#) (Iolo Morganwg) (N.L.W. MS. 13142). A copy of his will, made shortly before his death, is kept at N.L.W. He was buried at Ysbyty Ifan, and an elegy on him was written by [Edmund Prys](#).

Author

Ray Looker

Sources

Heraldic Visitations of Wales and Part of the Marches between the years 1586 and 1613, under the authority of Clarencieux and Norroy, two kings at arms (Llandoverly 1846), ii, 278

Peniarth Manuscript in the National Library of Wales 128 (680)

NLW Archives: [Llanstephan MS 137: Transcripts](#)

Llechid Jones MS. 10 (*NLW MSS* 6495-6)

Josiah Thomas Jones, [Geiriadur Bywgraffyddol o Enwogion Cymru \(Aberdâr 1867-70\)](#)

O. G. Jones, *Gweithiau Gethin sef casgliad o holl weithiau barddonol a llenyddol* (Llanrwst 1884)

Y Llenor: cylchgrawn chwarterol dan nawdd cymdeithasau Cymraeg y colegau cenedlaethol, x, 122

Reports on Manuscripts in the Welsh Language (Historical Manuscripts Commission 1898–1910), ii, 718

Christ Church MSS. in Oxford

T. R. Roberts, *Edmwnd Prys, archddiacon Meirionydd traethawd bywgraffyddol a beirniadol*, 1899, prints the controversial cywyddau exchanged by Cynfal and Prys

Additional Links

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